Document 10

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Case 4:08-cv-02748-SBA

- 1. I am a Director of Video Gaming Technologies, Inc., dba VGT, Inc ("VGT"). I submit this declaration in support of plaintiffs' Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order and for Order to Show Cause for Preliminary Injunction. I have personal knowledge of the facts below, and if called as a witness, could and would competently testify thereto.
- 2. VGT is a Tennessee corporation authorized to do business in California, and is in the business of manufacturing electronic bingo aids for distribution and use throughout the country. VGT provides electronic bingo aids to qualified charities who place these bingo aids in bingo facilities in Sacramento and Alameda Counties and in other counties in Northern California that have ordinances allowing for the play of bingo. These bingo facilities allow qualified charitable organizations to host bingo fundraiser events using VGT's electronic bingo aids. I am informed and believe that the charities then use revenue from these events to fund many of their programs. Numerous charitable organizations use VGT's electronic bingo aids, such as WIND Youth Services, United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Sacramento, Disabled Sports USA, Society for the Blind, Stanford Home for Children, All Star Tournaments, Women's Employment Resource Center, Children Accepting Responsibility Everywhere, and Sacramento Mandarins Drum and Bugle Corps.
- 3. I have received copies of the cease-and-desist orders (the "Orders") served by the Bureau of Gambling Control (the "Bureau") on various charitable bingo facilities in Alameda and Sacramento Counties. The Orders identify a total of 303 electronic bingo aids that the Bureau claims are in violation of state law. VGT manufactured 286 of those bingo aids, which it provided to the respective charities for their use in charitable bingo games. VGT obtains revenue from these bingo games based on the total sale of bingo cards to the charity.
- 4. VGT's electronic bingo aids have been in place throughout Northern California, including Sacramento, Alameda, and Santa Clara Counties. These electronic bingo aids have received local authorization to operate at charitable bingo operations within these counties, including authorization from local law enforcement, except where no specific authorization is required. No enforcement action has ever been commenced against VGT's electronic bingo aids,

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and the Orders recently served by the Bureau are the first of their kind addressing VGT's electronic bingo aids.

- 5. Until recently, VGT's electronic bingo aids operated as follows. A player pays the clerk (a member of a charitable organization volunteering his or her time) a certain amount of money for the purchase of electronic bingo cards to be played on an electronic bingo aid. The clerk gives the player a receipt with a code on it. The player inserts that code into an electronic bingo aid, which then recognizes the code and gives the player a certain amount of credits for the purchase of electronic bingo cards on that particular bingo aid. A player may play only one card per game. The clerk may assist a blind or otherwise disabled person who cannot input the code.
- 6. The electronic cards are patterned after traditional bingo cards and contain columns and rows with numbers. All players must obtain their bingo cards before a game starts.
- 7. Each of VGT's electronic bingo aids link into a common game, which cannot begin until at least two players are present. Once the game begins, a centralized common random number generator draws the numbers, which are in turn displayed on the screen of each electronic bingo aid in real time and in the sequence drawn (i.e., the winning pattern is not known before a game begins).
- 8. After this initial draw, the player must then "daub" (or cover) the matching numbers on the electronic cards by pressing a button on the bingo aid. If a player does not press the daub button, then he or she "sleeps" those numbers such that they are not counted toward a winning pattern for that player. Once a player obtains a winning pattern, he or she must be the first person in the game to press his or her button to "call" bingo. If a player has a winning pattern but does not press the button, then he or she "sleeps" the win and another player with a winning pattern can subsequently call bingo and win.
- 9. At no time does the charitable organization or any other entity have an interest in the outcome of the game, and there must always be a winner for every game. As such, the game continues and numbers continue to be called until there is a winner.

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- 10. The electronic bingo aids also allow the player the option of printing a paper copy of each bingo card used in a particular game. Whether the player has won or not can be determined on the basis of this paper alone.
- Even though I believe that VGT's original electronic bingo aids comply with state 11. bingo law, to ensure that there is no doubt that VGT's bingo aids are found to be lawful, even under the Bureau's interpretation of the relevant statute, I authorized the development, testing. and implementation of a significant overhaul to the software of all of VGT's Northern California electronic bingo aids. This new software was installed on all electronic bingo aids in Sacramento and Alameda Counties on between Wednesday, May 28, 2008 and Friday, May 30, 2008.
- 12. The new software ensures that paper cards are an integral and necessary component of the game in that they are purchased and received by a player prior to playing bingo with a VGT electronic bingo aid. Each electronic bingo aid is programmed with only one electronic card. When a player chooses to play at a particular electronic bingo aid, he or she will be given a booklet containing the entire library of corresponding paper cards with matching reference numbers so that the player can locate the paper card corresponding to the electronic bingo aid. If the player decides that he or she wishes to use a different card, then he or she must move to a different bingo aid. The player can verify whether his or her card is a winner based solely on the paper card. In all other respects, the new version of VGT's electronic bingo aids operate the same way its earlier version did. A true and correct copy of sample paper bingo cards given to players at the point of sale is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 13. VGT's recent software changes came at great cost to VGT, as it expended a significant amount of time and money developing, testing, and installing the new software to conform to the Bureau's interpretation of the bingo statute.
- 14. Among the benefits of VGT's design for electronic bingo aids is that they provide better access to bingo competition for disabled individuals than other commonly-used media, such as the exclusive use of paper or cardboard cards.
- 15. Many of the charities to which VGT provides electronic bingo aids use their facilities to host charity bingo events for charities supporting the disabled. I am informed and

believe that disabled individuals utilize our electronic bingo aids at charity bingo events as well, and that the access provided by our electronic bingo aids allows such disabled individuals to compete in bingo when they otherwise could not.

- 16. Because our electronic bingo aids allow disabled people to compete at bingo against able-bodied individuals, interpreting the statutes to prohibit these devices would have a discriminatory impact against the disabled. Because our electronic bingo aids are used by disabled individuals, the discriminatory impact would also harm VGT by association.
- If the Orders are enforced, it would have a disastrous effect on VGT's business 17. including its investment costs. Not only would it lose hundreds of its electronic bingo aids to seizure with a possibility that they may be destroyed or never returned, VGT would lose a significant amount of revenue from the sale of bingo cards to the charities if electronically-aided bingo is stopped. Even a temporary inability to host charitable bingo events using VGT's electronic bingo aids would substantially reduce VGT's revenue.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on June 2, 2008 at

ROSEVILLE , California.

STEVE WILSON

EXHIBIT A



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В		N	G	0	
7	30	41	59	61	
2	20	45	48	64	
6	18	Free (Space	51	66	
11	21	39	58	67	
5	26	38	49	74	

For sale or use only in a bingo game authorized under California law and pursuant to local ordinance.

В		N	G	0
7	18	31	59	69
15	22	38	52	65
5	19	Fron ; Space	56	70
2	20	35	55	73
8	26	33	53	68

For sale or use only in a bingo game authorized under California law and pursuant to local ordinance.

OVGT

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В		N	G	0	
9	17	41	58	65	
2	23	39	59	67	
14	16	Free 1 Space	47	61	
4	19	31	52	71	
1	18	37	55	64	

For sale or use only in a binge game authorized under Celifornia law and purposet to local ordinance.

EVGT

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В		N	G	0	
15	29	39	48	75	
13	26	40	56	69	
4	18	Free , Space	60	64	
1	19	44	52	70	
12	16	33	54	73	

For sale or use only in a binge game buthertrad under California law and pursuant to local ordinance.

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ı	В		N	G	0	
	4	16	44	58	64	
	6	29	45	53	62	
	10	21	Free s Space	57	66	
Į	8	23	35	60	63	
	13	17	40	52	72	

For sale or use only in a binge game authorized under Celifornia law and pursuant to local ordinance.

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	В		N	G	0
1	4	30	35	49	73
	1	16	36	47	75
	9	17	Fraa • Space	53	70
	7	23	38	55	67
1	2	27	34	54	63

For sale or use only in a bingo game authorized under California law and pursuant to local ordinance.